

The Village Store

by Eva Stebbins Callender

Editor's Note — This article from the pen of Eva Stebbins Callender of Littleton, N. H. was published in the Littleton Courier recently. Mrs. Callender is a native and former resident of Northfield and the article is in the nature of a historical treatise upon facts with which she was in close contact here in her early years and which facts have made a lasting impression upon her. Although Mrs. Callender has not informed the Editor, there are those who believe she had in mind the old general store in Northfield which existed before the day of "chains" and when the store ran the post office and was the general meeting place for young and old alike. The older residents among us will read between the lines and note how well it fits the "old general store of our village."

We had department stores, if you please, away back in the 60's and good useful institutions they were, where you could buy everything from a baby's safety pin to hair tonic for the bald-headed or even a hoghead of molasses if you wished to indulge in that quantity.

Every town had at least one—a general store it was called—and all the inhabitants for miles around depended on these merchants for their necessary supplies, paying for the same with cash—occasionally—or by the "charge it, please" plan, or more often with a few dozen eggs or a box of butter from the farm.

Frock Like Night Shirt

Besides having one corner of the store devoted exclusively to Uncle Sam's postoffice and postal affairs, there were showcases for notions, neckwear, jewelry, fancy handkerchiefs, combs, all kinds of stationary, etc., while the walls had shelves displaying a variety of dry goods, cottons for household use, and both cotton and woolen dress goods. One was sure to find large rolls of a heavy blue and white striped "frocking," for the men in the cold winter months preferred the home-made "frock" to any other outside garment. Many of these were fashioned like a night shirt, in length coming below the knees, although some were shorter and were belted around the waist. One or more of these useful garments were to be found in nearly every farmer's home.

Conspicuously displayed near the main entrance to the store were large boxes containing rubber boots; next were tables loaded with men's clothing, while counters surrounded a space or corner where all kinds of footwear for men, women and children were arranged. The boots included the copper-toed variety for boys. These were a source of great pride to the average school boy as the strip of copper about 1/2 of an inch in width, added luster to the toe of each boot and also gave peculiar emphasis in a well-directed kick against his adversary. Unfortunately for the storekeeper these shining adornments prolonged the usefulness of the boots even when worn by the most active youngster, so, for financial reasons, the shoe shops ceased to manufacture that kind of cast-iron footwear.

Wooden Pegs Rose

The shoe department had a contraption with iron bits to fit both children and "grown-ups" shoes, for nearly all shoes had wooden pegs to hold the soles in place, and these had the uncomfortable habit of rising above their business, often an eighth of an inch or more, so it was the part of wisdom and kindness to the future pedestrian to smooth the inside of each sole by means of this necessary machine.

Crockery, from butter plates to platters, had its place in the store, also large tanks for kerosene and petroleum oils. The latter oil was used most in small brass lamps which, taking the place of time honored candles, were used about the house. These lamps were small, not over four inches in height, and were packed with a cottony substance which absorbed the petroleum on the sides, leaving a round space in the center to contain the small round wick which also ran up the two-inch burner. When lighted, no chimney being needed, the blaze was about equal to a candle flame, and was extinguished by means of a cap attached to the side of the burner.

This was considered a much safer lighting arrangement than the kerosene lamps of the same date, for many considered the kerosene oil of a distinctly yellowish hue in those days, as being a very dangerous commodity. If one lax housekeeper was obliged to fill her lamp after dark, she felt she must go out of doors with her lamp and can, and by the aid of a lighted lamp on the inside of the window, would cautiously pour in enough oil to last until daylight, when she could "fill 'er up" with more safety.

Goods Stored In Annex

The hardware corner could supply the needs of any carpenter or farmer, while carloads of flour in barrels, also saws, axes, and tools too numerous to mention were stored in the annex or "back store," where were also samples of wall paper, paints and varnishes for inside and outside decoration. The candy counter in the main store, also the glass jars holding candy sticks, (beautifully striped in red and white), were as attractive to the small boy as the "suckers" of today, while the sale of spruce gum and the white or paraffin gum would even make a Wrigley envious.

Lotions, tonics, pills and plasters, "the kind that won't come off," were to be had. All kinds of patent medicines for every disease from dandruff to corns were ready for the purchaser. The tobacco products were also in evidence, but the cigarettes or "cotton pills" were absent, these being a product of a more modern and perhaps progressive age.

These village stores were well patronized but at mail time there was the largest gathering, and, as very few daily papers were taken, the fortunate subscriber would hastily open his paper and read to the anxious listeners the important items of news. This was the way during the Civil war, that much of the news from the battles was learned. Sometimes the information was most startling, as one reader announced when reading the war news, that "the corpse of Gen. Banks was placed on the left front" this being calmly received and understood with not a smile on the anxious faces.

Insides Exposed

The customers could see barrels of white and brown or coffee (light brown) sugar, baskets of dried beans, peas, dried apples and whole dried salt codfish. Generally six of the codfish were bundled together and tied by their tails. They hardly made an attractive picture for they had been cut open and laid out flat before being salted, so there was a very indecent exposure of their insides.

No covering over this bundle of salt fish was considered necessary, or care in keeping the fish uncontaminated, the top of the kerosene tank often being the last resting place before passing to the hands of the housewife.

Kits of salmon, mackerel and tripe, a whole cheese resting on a circular board and covered with a round box which hung by a weighted cord, large boxes of various kinds of tea "direct imports from China" all had their place, but the one thing sure to attract attention was the huge box stove in the center of the large room for its responsibility was great in the winter months.

Forum Around Stove

It was usually placed in the center of a shallow box filled with saw dust, and around it were convenient seats which were often occupied in the daytime by certain town idlers, and always in the evening, for this gathering place had the same importance in the community as the men's clubs of today. Affairs of town and government were vigorously discussed, also neighborhood topics which, if heard by the feminine population, would have been labelled by them as plain gossip; for instance, Jones, moving closer to Smith but keeping his eyes fixed on a distant corner, would ask "How many cows is Seth Johnson going to keep this winter?"

"Seven—jest bought one."

"Ye don't say. What's he got to keep 'em on and where did he git the money? Beats all what some folks kin do."

"Waal, he cut a little extra hay in the meadow, an' bought some fodder from Pete. Guess he had a windfall last summer; ye know his Aunt Harriet died last June an' somebody told my wife's sister Sarah that she left Seth quite a bit of property, etc., etc."

A Personal Matter

Sometimes the conversation was of a more personal nature. A tall, somewhat distinguished looking gentleman might be earnestly proclaiming that "I have a tooth. Tain't a back tooth, but it's next to a back tooth. Now that tooth don't ache,

Haigis Appreciates The Local Interest In Radio Station

John W. Haigis of Greenfield has expressed his appreciation of the interest which has been shown in this community in the establishment of the new radio station which he is building and he hopes that it will be possible to run a loop to Mount Hermon and to Northfield so as to make the facilities for broadcasting immediately available to this community.

In a letter received he writes, "I appreciate very much your article in the Press concerning the new broadcasting station here in Greenfield and I hope



very much that when we are on the air we shall be privileged to extend a loop to Northfield and Mount Hermon, so that the people throughout the county can benefit by an occasional concert or lecture for which the Northfield schools have so fine a reputation. I am hoping that we shall start the activity soon and I am sure it will be a real asset to all the people of Franklin county."

What a privilege it will be to many a former student of the Northfield schools, or to former visitors in Northfield, especially those who have attended the former summer conferences to sit at their radio and tune in WHAI and hear at distant points the ever memorable events which take place here. Northfield unites in appreciation of the effort of Mr. Haigis in building the new broadcasting station.

Grange Items

On Wednesday evening of last week the Grange held neighborhood night with representatives from the Granges of Shelburne, Montague and Erving. Charles M. Gardner of Westfield was present to address the gathering and there were 114 members present fully enjoying the proceedings. Refreshments were served after the meeting.

Next Tuesday evening the Grange will hold a meeting for the installation of its officers for the year. Deputy Deane of Greenfield will be the installing official. An officers' roll call will be a questionnaire on "What I Expect to See Accomplished." There will also be a report on the State Grange session.

The Connecticut Valley Pomona will meet next Wednesday evening with Guiding Star Grange at Greenfield. The morning session will open at 10:30 o'clock with a business meeting. At 12 o'clock dinner will be served followed by an afternoon session.

but when it does ache, it's goin' to come out," and the listeners would solemnly look at each other and nod their heads in approval.

The door opens and a comparative stranger enters. But one of the party around the stove recognizes him and says "Waal, if this ain't Cy Hawkins. Where have you bin all this time?"

Suspense is broken as he replies, "Been down in South Carolina for a year."

"Ye don't say. What latitude were you in?"

"Huh?"

"What latitude were you in?"

"Waal—er—it might have been 2,000 feet but I don't believe it was 2500," but the mail window is opened and in the bustle of mail distribution the question is never fully answered.

Yes, the old general store has been replaced by another having modern ideas including better sanitary conditions, as the manufacturers now put their goods in sealed packages, windows and doors are screened, and the old box stove has been abolished. But the spirit of neighborly kindness and interest is not forgotten and still lingers about the memories of the old village store.

Aged Woman Dies; Was 92 Years Old; Made Home Here

Mrs. Mary R. (Sawyer) Phelps, age 92, died Monday night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William D. Miller on Main street, after an illness of several months. She was born in Troy, Vt. April 22, 1846, and later her parents removed to Brookfield, Mass., to make their home. After completing her education she was married to Frank G. Phelps of Philipston who conducted farm operations. Mr. Phelps died about five years ago and afterward she made her home with her daughter here, having been given every care and attention.

She was a member of the Brookfield Congregational church where the funeral services were held Thursday morning with Rev. Eric Lindh officiating. The burial was in the family plot in Brookfield cemetery. A service of prayer was conducted at Kidder's funeral parlor Wednesday afternoon with Rev. Mr. Carne leading and attended by many friends.

Surviving are one son, Frank L. Phelps of Middletown, Ct. and her daughter, Mrs. Miller; also six grand children and three great-grandchildren.

Crossnore School Expresses Thanks

From Mrs. C. B. Clark of Crossnore school at Crossnore, N. C., comes a letter of appreciation for the three boxes of selected clothing, etc., which was shipped from Northfield. "The boxes arrived by freight on the day before Christmas," writes Mrs. Clark, "just in time to be a most welcome gift to the school. How grateful we are to you, Mrs. Hoehn, for your interest and effort in preparing all these good things for us, which will be a wonderful help. I do wish that you could have been here to share the joy that you have helped to create, for we have had a very merry Christmas. Thank you and all your friends for their kindness to us."

Are You Registered?

The local board of Registrars have posted notices of their sitting at the town hall for the purpose of enrolling voters previous to the town meeting in February. The first session will be Saturday, Jan. 15 from 7 to 9 o'clock in the evening and the second and final session on Wednesday, Jan. 26 from 12 noon to 10 o'clock in the evening.

Invites Members

The local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, Mrs. Willis Parker, Worthy Matron, has received the following invitations which it is hoped may be accepted by some members of the chapter: Gentlemen's night at Springfield, Jan. 7; installations, Hinsdale (N. H.), Jan. 7; Robert Morris Chapter, Holyoke, Jan. 8; Athol and South Deerfield, Jan. 10; Indian Orchard the 12th; Chester, Mass., the 13th; and Pittsfield, Jan. 14.

Rev. James M. Lent

The many friends of the Rev. James Manning Lent will learn with deep regret of his death which took place at his home in Providence, R. I., last Oct. 28, and which information has just reached the Press. For over 25 years he has been a summer resident of Rustic Ridge and at one time president of the association. His last pastorate was with the Woodlawn Baptist church at Pawtucket, R. I., and had since been retired.

Last summer he and his wife had occupied their cottage here and left Northfield for home the latter part of September. He had been suffering with heart trouble and this caused his death. He had a fine personality, was a devoted father and husband and much honored and revered in his pastorate. He loved Northfield and always enjoyed his coming.

Mr. Lent was born at Freeport, Nova Scotia. He studied at Worcester Academy, at Brown university, at Hartford Theological school, and later at Yale Divinity school. After fitting himself for the ministry, he held pastorates at South Windsor, Ct., and at Amherst, Weston, and Whitman, Mass.

Surviving Mr. Lent are his wife, Mrs. Gertrude Lent; two daughters, Mrs. Rex Kennedy of Madison, N. J., and Mrs. Earl T. Beers of Attleboro; a brother, John J. Lent of Winthrop, Mass., and two sisters, Miss May Lent and Mrs. Chester Feeman of Winthrop.

Hostel Activities Had Week Of Sport; Kaufhold Engaged

The New Year's eve party provided a grand finale of the holiday merry making at the Richard Schirrmann Youth Hostel. The various groups who had gone to other hostels during the week returned for this final festivity. During the early part of the evening there was plenty of outdoor fun. One group went skating, another skiing, another tobogganing and another sleigh riding. At about ten o'clock all met in the big recreation room of the hostel for games and dancing and singing. During the evening some of our neighbors dropped in to enjoy the merriment. At 12 o'clock, Isabel Smith director, extended a Happy New Year greeting, and then there was a joyous response as hosteler greeted hosteler with best wishes.

On New Year's day the successful hostel party began to leave for home and by Tuesday the last hosteler had gone. But before they went plans were made for other reunions in February and at Easter.

Karl Kaufhold has returned from a very happy vacation in Florida, where he was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Smith of Pass-a-Grille. During his visit his engagement was announced to Miss Ida Hamilton Smith of Pass-a-Grille. Miss Smith is very well known at the local headquarters here. She was a member of the Youth Hostel group which visited Japan two years ago, and last summer was the leader of one of the Youth Hostel groups in Europe.

Karl has applied for American citizenship and intends to make the United States his permanent home.

William Nelson, field worker in region 1 and William Andrus, field worker in region 8, who spent the holidays in Northfield have gone back to their respective fields, Nelson to Rhode Island and Andrus to West Virginia.

On Monday, Monroe Smith, our National Director, started on his speaking tour which will take him to the Pacific coast. He will be gone two months and has engagements in most of the important cities on the route. He was accompanied as far as Buffalo by A. P. Fitt, our financial executive and by Archie Stark, our field worker in region two.

Mrs. K. Genung of Philadelphia is spending a few days at the local headquarters. She has taken a great interest in the Pennsylvania chain of hostels and, under the guidance of Nancy Reasoner, hostess, she has visited several of the New England hostels, getting ideas for the improvement of the Pennsylvania chain.



ALBERT E. ROBERTS
who was one of the speakers to pay a memorial tribute to the service of the late Dr. John McDowell in New York Wednesday.

Students Return From Their Vacation

Last Monday the hundreds of students at Mount Hermon returned from their holiday vacation spent at home or with friends and on Tuesday 525 students of the seminary came back to their classes for another term of study and hard work. Most of the students arrived by bus and train and there were far fewer private automobiles seen than for some time past owing to the uncertainty of weather conditions. All regular classes are now resumed and the community feels happier with its large family about.

The absent member of your family will enjoy reading the news from home during 1938. Send him or her a gift subscription to the Northfield Press.

Errors At Leyden, Overdrafts At Gill, Found By Auditors

Auditors from the state, such as are going over our books in Northfield now, have finished their work at Leyden and the report as issued at Boston and sent to the Selectmen states that expenditures amounting to \$4,170.14 were made in excess of amounts available.

The balance sheet of Leyden as of the audit date, showed total assets of \$23,104.75, including: cash, \$6668.35; taxes receivable, levies of 1934-37, inclusive, \$6008.30; motor vehicle excise taxes outstanding, levies of 1935, '36 and '37, \$295.58; tax titles, \$304.56; overdrawn accounts, two in number, both for 'highway work, \$4170.14.

At Gill the auditors find overdrafts, expenditures in excess of amounts available and lack of sufficient records. However, the balance sheet of the town as of the audit date showed total assets of \$44,791.95, which, in addition to the overdrafts, included: cash, \$15,139.56; due from R. L. Watson, former collector, \$5.58; taxes receivable, levies of 1936 and 1937, \$8762.40; motor vehicle excise taxes outstanding, same years' levies, \$144.53; tax titles, \$829.38; estimated receipts to be collected, \$9870.35.

It will be interesting to study the report of the Northfield audit when completed and submitted. Fortunately the town officials have been exacting and careful and have endeavored to keep within the budget or rather appropriations. There should be an enforced provision to compel officials or boards who spend beyond the amounts allotted to them to be personally responsible for any excesses.



DR. JOHN McDOWELL
for whom a memorial service was held in New York Wednesday.

Increased Receipts

The Northfield postoffice, Lawrence Quinlan, postmaster, reports a much increased business during the last quarter than in the same period of last year. For three months to January 1 this year money orders amounted to \$12,257 and stamp sales \$1,334. The figures of last year were money orders \$11,787 and stamps \$1,098.

The growth of postal receipts at the Northfield office shows a steady gain. The largest local volume is provided in the publications of the Youth Hostel and the Northfield Press.

Fortnightly

This afternoon at three o'clock in Alexander hall the members of the Fortnightly will have as their guests members of the Garden club and friends to listen to an address on "Roses and Gardenias" by Aubrey Buller which will be illustrated with pictures and a showing made of the flowers. There will be music and Mrs. W. A. Barr will be hostess.

The "Leather Man" Creates Interest; Who Remembers Him?

In our issue of a few weeks ago we printed the story of the "Leather Man" with his picture. We gave as much information as we could obtain and sent the copy to many historical societies in the Connecticut valley. One error was made in the date of his death which was in 1889 instead of 1880.

More authentic information is desired from anyone who knew him and can place him in positive terms as visiting in localities, particularly north of Connecticut state line. Thus information from residents of Greenfield and Northfield in other towns would be positively placed. An annual visitor to Rye, N. Y. by old residents and consequently the Westchester County Historical society is making a study of his activities.

The Press is in receipt of a letter from Allison Albee of Rye who is interested to secure more information and facts.

The "Leather Man" was an unusual character always exacting considerable interest wherever he went. His photograph, fortunately preserved, is viewed with much interest. Postmaster Kennedy of Greenfield has sent copies of the Press to enquirers and hopes that a more complete story may be written of the man of such an unusual frame of mind who moved about so much and won the solicitude of many folks who so kindly befriended him.

Memorial Service For Dr. John McDowell

At the national headquarters of the Presbyterian church in New York City a memorial service for Dr. John McDowell was held Wednesday afternoon and which was largely attended. Albert E. Roberts, executive secretary of the Northfield Schools was one of the speakers and his subject was "Dr. McDowell's Contribution to Northfield." Dr. McDowell was the chairman and Mr. Roberts secretary of the Moody Centenary committee which arranged many observances last summer. There were several speakers who spoke upon many phases of Dr. McDowell's activities. He died last November 13, at the age of 67.

Dr. Frank D. Torrey

Friends in Northfield learned with sorrow and regret of the death of the Rev. Frank D. Torrey, D. D., of the Boston Hospital in Boston, this week after a summer residence here for over a quarter of a century, his was the first home to be erected on what is now known as Rustic Ridge, and which he with his wife and family have occupied each season. In recent years he made his home during the winter season at Penney Farms, Fla.

Dr. Torrey, who was in his 69th year, had held pastorates in Utica, Fulton, Little Falls, Brooklyn and Hempstead, N. Y., and in New Milford, Hartford, and Norwalk, Ct., while a member of the Northern New York and New York Eastern Conference. He was a member of the trustees and stewards boards of the latter conference upon his resignation in 1929.

Born in Vernon, N. Y., Dr. Torrey was graduated from Syracuse university in 1891, studied theology at Boston university and Drew Theological seminary and on a Drew scholarship, in Germany. He received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Syracuse in 1913.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. May Brown Torrey; a daughter, Mrs. Hervey B. Elkins of Belmont, and a sister, Miss S. E. Torrey of Vernon, N. Y. The funeral service and burial were private.

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Mrs. Irene Osgood

Mrs. Irene R. Osgood, for over 50 years a resident of Northfield, died Monday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Roger Billings in Northfield Farms. She had been ill for only a short period and was 84 years of age. Born in Sunderland, Nov. 13, 1853, she was the daughter of Charles L. and Mary E. Cummings. When a child she moved to North Leverett with her parents and after completing her education came to Northfield when she married Sereno Osgood who conducted a farm. Mr. Osgood died about 25 years ago. Mrs. Osgood was a member of the Millers Falls Congregational church and of the Ladies' Benevolent society of the Farms.

Besides her daughter, Mrs. Billings, she leaves two sisters, Mrs. Nellie Underwood, and Mrs. Edna Cadwell of Greenfield; a brother, Will Cummings of Montague; three grandsons, Warren Billings, and Malcolm and Glenn Billings of Northfield Farms; and a granddaughter, Mrs. Bernice Underwood of Maryland; and four great grandchildren. The funeral service was held Wednesday at the Billings home and burial was in the Northfield Farms cemetery.

Mrs. William Stone

Mrs. Zelma (Marshall) Stone, age 57, died Monday night at her home in South Vernon after a long illness, having been an invalid for six years. She was the wife of William Stone who survives her.

She was born in South Vernon June 20, 1880, the daughter of Henry and Saphronia (Butterfield) Marshall and spent her entire life in that community, marrying Mr. Stone in August, 1898.

The funeral was held in the South Vernon church Wednesday afternoon with Rev. George A. Gray officiating and burial was in the Tyler cemetery in the family plot. A large circle of relatives and friends attended the service. Mrs. Stone was a woman devoted to her church and its activities and was much loved and esteemed.

Mary Morse

A young life passed in death last Saturday evening when Mary, age 12, daughter of Fred Morse of Ashuelot road died after a brief illness. Loved by her playmates she was a child of fine character and hope. Her funeral was held at Kidder's funeral parlors last Monday afternoon with Rev. W. Stanley Carne officiating and burial was in West Parish cemetery in the Barber district.

LOCALS

A divorce decree has been granted to Harry L. Gingras with the custody of his two children.

The property of the late Minnie Callender estate on Main St., which was recently purchased by Ross L. Spencer has been sold to out-of-town parties who have acquired the same for residence. It is expected that extensive improvement and modernization will be made to the house.

J. Lee Bolton, Henry W. Russell and Charles L. Gilbert have been drawn as jurors for the special criminal court session sitting on Jan. 17.

The community nurse, Laura Martineau, started a new course this week at the high school on home hygiene, which all members of the cooking class are expected to attend.

Plans are being made for the annual meeting of the various women's organizations of the Congregational church for next week. It will be called at 4:00 o'clock Friday, Jan. 14. Supper will be served at 6:00 and the evening meeting will hear an address on "Community Church Life."

Concluding the series of church-home meetings, a large gathering was held in the Congregational church Thursday evening. The speakers were Rev. Joseph Harrison of West Townsend, Vt., Rev. Walter Sillen of Waltham, Georg MacMillan of Waltham, Rev. Arthur L. Truesdell and Rev. Mr. Lovett of Bernardston.

The regular meeting of the Mothers' society will be postponed this month, but members will attend the United Women's societies meeting instead.

Several members of the local lodge of Masons attended Past Masters' night last week Thursday evening with Golden Rule lodge at Hinsdale.

A certificate of appointment and membership has been received by the Editor of the Press to the Publishers' Council of the committee on the President's birthday establishing the National Foundation for the study and care of infantile paralysis.

A group of women who represent Women's clubs of the 14th district met in Longmeadow last week for a conference and want to form an independent Federation of Women's clubs for western Massachusetts to include the counties of Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire. It

would mean secession from the State Federation. Evidently someone wants to start something.

There is an increasing interest in birds in town and many people are regularly providing bread crumbs and feed for them during the days when snow covers the ground. All up-to-date stores these days are carrying mixed foods for birds and it is sold at such a reasonable price that its cost is worth the while in the presence of the feathered tribe.

Willis H. Weissbrod, county chairman for the sale of the Christmas seals for the Public Health association extends his thanks to all who assisted in the 1937 campaign.

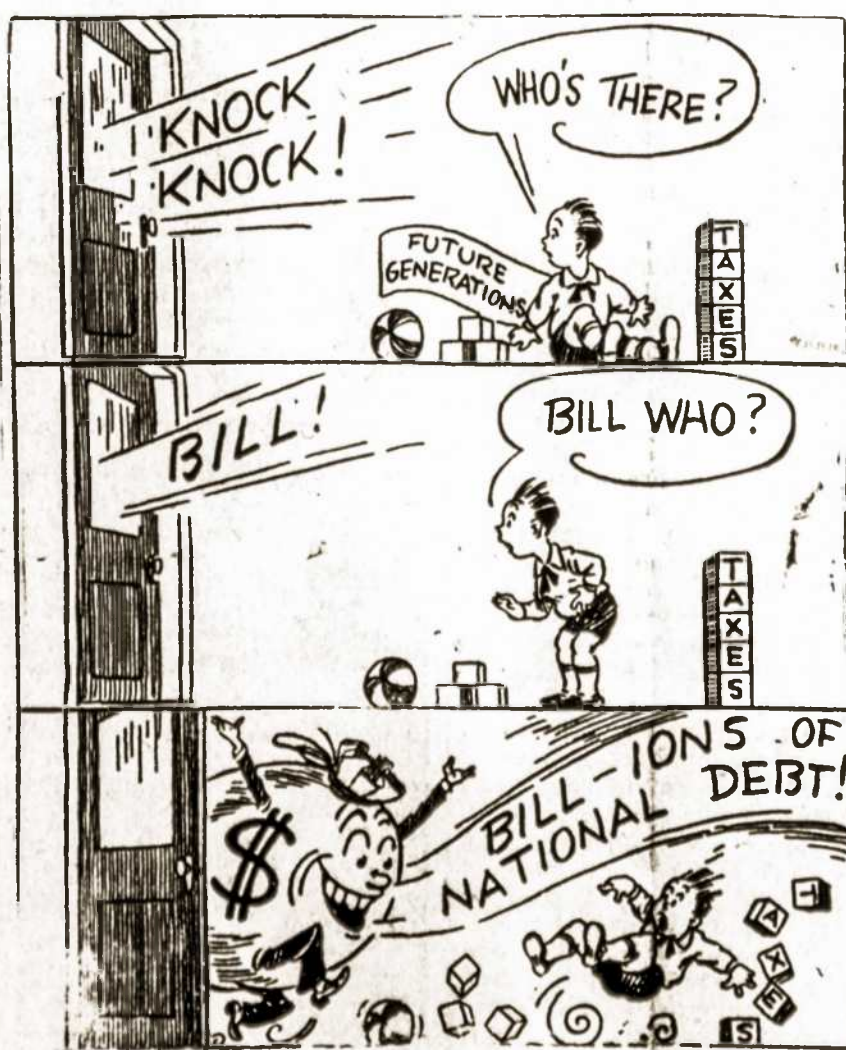
Tax Collector Charles F. Slate has advertised the sale of three properties for unpaid taxes for the year 1935 in the Press and the sale will take place at the town hall on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 1 o'clock.

Tomorrow night (Saturday) the Democratic machine of the state holds a banquet in Boston to observe Jackson Day. The cost is \$25 per plate and 170 seats were reserved for those from western Massachusetts.

It is reported that the motor excise tax this year will be more than last year. The new rate is to be \$35.15 per \$1000 of valuation of your automobile. Last year it was \$34.62 and in 1936 \$33.38.

Harmony lodge of Masons will hold its regular meeting next Wednesday evening in the Masonic hall.

KNOCK! KNOCK!



"BYNG"

I'll not be following you another year.
Another year the grouse may haunt the same old run,
And now can feed at dusk without a fear,
For you've gone on, and I have cased my gun.
The yellowing birches, on the pasture hill,
No more will know you, ranging wide and free,
Where woodcock twist and turn, with whistle shrill,
Down isles I hunt with you, in memory.
Your bell still hangs upon the same old hook,
Your rug still waits where dancing firelight plays
With shadows in the ingle nook
That still is yours, as in the olden days.
When red and gold October comes again,
In memory, with you, the same old hills we'll roam,
But ever there will come that same old pain
As a ghost dog follows me home.
Staunch in the field, untiring, ever true,
Strong heart, great heart, comrade, friend;
'Tis I who now must follow you
West,—to our journey's end.

Editor's Note:—Local interest is attached to the above lines of John Phelps written in memorial tribute to his faithful dog "Byng" whose presence about the Sankey Homestead was always noted and whose friendship for visitors was always valued. He was a large and beautiful dog, a familiar figure to many who now miss his pleasant ways.

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For Outdoor Sports

Hard Toe and Moccasin Toe
Smoked Elk and
Dark Brown Elk

For Hiking and
Skating

\$5 to \$650

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Do You
Use Your
Eyes After
Dark?

Foolish question perhaps. That's usually the time we use our eyes most. After supper, we read, study, sew, go to the movies. We depend upon our eyes for most of our fun in life—after dark.

But are we treating our eyes with the proper respect for their importance? Do we needlessly strain them trying to read or sew in poor light? I'm afraid many of us do. And we pay the price. Three out of five people have defective vision at age 40.

Better light means better sight. And good lighting is so easy to have in the home. Just two things to remember—have enough light and no glare. Why not check up on your home lighting now—and give your eyes the protection they deserve?

Better Light - Better Sight

WESTERN MASS. ELECTRIC CO.

Rev. Loring B. Chase of East Bridgewater has taken a tax title from the town of Northfield to a piece of property in the Highlands adjoining his own premises.

"Tovarich" the world-famous comedy dealing with an exiled Russian Prince and Grand Duchess, comes in film form to the Auditorium Theatre, Brattleboro, Sunday for a four-day showing. Starring Claudette Colbert and Charles Boyer, it is said to be the most massive and expensive production on the screen today.

Bill Vinal, a veteran printer who has made his home in Northfield for many years and

who has been employed in local printing plants in years gone by was removed to the Franklin County hospital this week for treatment. He has been ill for some time.

The toboggan chute at the Northfield hotel is being used daily by guests in the enjoyment of the sport. It is well covered with ice and snow and is a speedy slide.

James Kelley had the misfortune to suffer a fall while entering his home on Christmas night and fractured his collar bone. He is resting as comfortably as can be expected.

How is Your BATTERY In Your AUTOMOBILE

IS IT STANDING THIS

COLD WEATHER STRAIN?

An Electrical CHECK Now Will SAVE You
Much Trouble When the Unexpected Happens

ASK US ABOUT IT

Morgan Garage

Northfield

Tel. 173

What Do You Know About Health?

By FISHER BROWN and NAT FALK



WHO IS CHRISTIAN
EIJKMAN?



WHY DO SOME PEOPLE WEAR
A BAG OF CAMPHOR
AROUND THE NECK?

WHAT IS JESUIT'S BARK?

Answers: 1. A Hollander who received the Nobel prize for his work on the vitamins. He discovered the importance of a balanced diet in preventing and curing beriberi.
2. Because of a superstitious belief that it will prevent influenza. This practice, of course, does nothing of the kind. The only known way, so far, of preventing influenza is by staying away from people who have colds and by building up our bod-

ily resistance. Milk, fruits and vegetables, along with sufficient rest, will do much toward building that resistance.
3. The first known cure for malaria. It was brought to Europe from Peru by the Jesuit priests—hence the name. However, today in the treatment of malaria, Peruvian or Jesuit's bark has been superseded by quinine, its chief active constituent.

Getting Fine Ice

A large crew of men are busy gathering a fine ice harvest from the waters of Wanamaker Pond for the ice houses of the Northfield Schools. The ice is of excellent quality and measures from ten to fourteen inches in thickness. The operations of marking, cutting and loading on trucks is being watched by a number of interested persons.

Auditors Are Here

As is usual each year at this time, several auditors from the

State Auditor's department, at Boston, arrived in Northfield on Monday morning at the town hall and requested the books and records of the various officials of the town. These will be given a careful study and the report will be received from Boston for inclusion in the published town report which will be ready in time for the annual town meeting.

Dumb: Have you ever speculated on why you are so popular in your neighborhood?

Bell: No, except that I told my neighbors I always play the saxophone when I get lonely.

CHURCH SERVICES

Trinitarian Church
Rev. W. Stanley Carne

Sunday school at 10; preaching service at 11, with the choir singing "Into the House of the Lord" and "Even Me." The sermon subject, "God Heard in the Still, Small Voice." Sunday school at the Farms at 2:30; preaching at the Farms at 6:45; 7:00, the Senior Endeavor will be led by Lloyd Carne; 8:00, preaching at the vestry.

Tuesday at 3 the Mrs. L. R. Smith Bible class with Mrs. Colton; Mrs. Giebel, leader.

Thursday at 6 the Monthly Friendly supper. At 7 the weekly prayer service, followed by the choir rehearsal.

Friday the 14th annual meeting of the United Women's societies; supper at 6; Mrs. William Holbrook of Keene will be the speaker of the evening.

South Church

Rev. Mary Andrews Connér

Sunday, 9:45, church school; 10:45, church worship. This is International Sunday for Unitarians all over the world, at which time Unitarians will emphasize the second commandment of Christ, "Brotherhood" as the essential to the future of mankind.

The Alliance will begin its new course of studies on the general topic, "What the Unitarian Church Has Done in the World." The first subject, "What the Unitarian Church Has Done for the Morals and the Religion of the World," will be presented by Mrs. O. D. Doolittle. The meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 13, at 2:30 o'clock at the home of Mrs. N. P. Wood with Mrs. C. D. Streeter assisting the hostess.

St. Patrick's Church

Rev. James I. Mitchell

Masses, first Sunday of the month 8:30 a. m. Every Sunday, 10:30 a. m.

The Farms Service

This Friday evening at the Farms schoolhouse at 7:30, Sidney Marcy who has returned from missionary work in Costa Rica will speak on the habits and customs of the people of that country. All are invited to attend. There will be a song service led by Mrs. Ronald Williams. On Sunday the Sunday school and evening service at the usual hours. Miss Elizabeth Evans will speak at both meetings. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend.

The Honor Roll For Center School

Principal George Leonard of the Center school has announced the honor roll of the school for the months of November and December. In Grade 5, second honors goes to Paul Gorgocski. Grade 6, high honors to Fay Warnock and Betty Phelps, second honors to Karlene Tyler, Roger Polhemus, Robert Johnson, John Addison and Jean Murphy. Grade 7, high honors to Janet Kehl, second honors to Aline Dunnell, Irving Scott, Alice Stevens and Florence Zabko. Grade 8, high honors none, second honors to Peter Ladinski and Andrew Stacy. This is a fine record for the school.

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Roselle Evans left town Tuesday to spend a portion of the winter at St. Petersburg, Florida.

Miss Harlene Carne left Tuesday for Wilson college after two weeks at the Manse.

The Assessors have posted notice of their activity, assessment of property and listing of polls as of January first.

Philip Porter accompanied by Bernard Whitney were in New York City this week registered at the Hotel New Weston.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Goodspeed were in Boston this week on business, securing considerable new goods for their store in the Webster block.

The many friends of George McMillan, formerly purchasing agent of the Northfield Schools, are glad to greet him while he is spending a few days here.

Mrs. F. W. Freeman of Main street has gone to spend a portion of the winter at Windermere, Fla.

Miss Eunice R. Stearns of Winchester, N. H., a graduate of Keene Normal school, has been appointed a teacher at the Farms school, to take the position left vacant by the resignation of Miss Eastman, who recently was married.

Mrs. Bessie Symonds of Highland avenue arrived in Orlando, last Friday afternoon and was met at the railroad station by several members of the Northfield group. A dinner was arranged for New Year's Day by the members of our colony and they had a most enjoyable time. It was 80 degrees warm.

Lawrence Durgin who has been spending his vacation from Dartmouth college with his grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lazelle, returned to his studies Monday.

Miss Eva Freeman, head of the English department of the seminary, has been granted a six-months' sabbatical leave and will visit England, leaving Northfield the last of this month.

Mrs. Willis Parker, Worthy Matron of the Northfield chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star will entertain the official staff of the chapter at a dinner at the Sunset Farm on next Tuesday evening.

Selectman Charles S. Tenney of Northfield Farms who has been quite ill for some time was removed by ambulance to a Boston hospital for treatment on Monday.

Prof. Nelson A. Jackson of Mt. Hermon school, who is also director of scholarships, will leave soon on a six-months' sabbatical absence and with Mrs. Jackson will go south for a visit and stay in the early spring go to England for a tour of that country.

Mr. and Mrs. Ambert G. Moody have left Salt Lake City where they have been visiting for some weeks and are now at Phoenix, Ariz., for a while where the sun is shining brightly and the climate much warmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Evans of Main street are leaving by motor for a trip to St. Petersburg, Fla., to spend a few weeks of the winter season.

WILSON'S GREAT ANNUAL PRE-INVENTORY CLEARANCE
BEGINS FRIDAY JANUARY 7th

STORE WIDE JANUARY CLEARANCE

Odds and Ends — Broken Sizes — Over-stocked Merchandise —
Discontinued Lines — Patterns and Merchandise which MUST be
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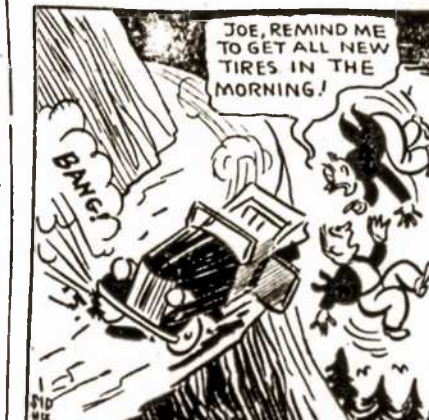
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- 1934 Chevrolet DeLuxe Sport Coupe
- 1933 Chevrolet Master Coach
- 1932 Chevrolet Coach
- 1931 Chevrolet Sport Coupe
- 1930 Chevrolet Sport Coupe
- 1932 Pontiac Convertible Coupe
- 1933 Chevrolet Standard Coach
- 1928 Buick Sedan
- 1935 Chevrolet Coach
- 1936 Chevrolet Town Sedan
- 1937 Chevrolet Town Sedan

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BIRTH OF A SONG



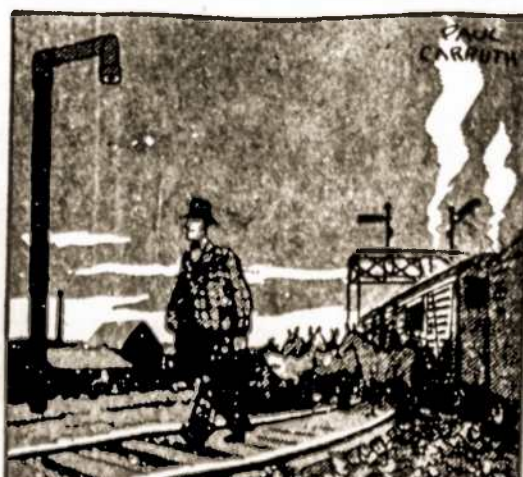
HARRY VON TILZER, born in Detroit, began a career that has stretched into forty years as a songwriter, when he ran away from home at the age of fourteen to join a circus.



At sixteen, he had become a seasoned troupier in a stock company, not only playing juveniles, but singing and composing songs.



Lottie Gilson, comic opera star, encouraged him to go to New York — so he left — as groom to a trainload of horses.



He left his load of dobbins with a dollar and sixty-five cents cash — but he was in New York.



The mecca of theatre talent in America in those days was Tony Pastor's, and Harry made for the famous music hall, where he began his career as a professional songwriter.



Von Tilzer always turned a ready ear to a snappy phrase, and from many overheard conversations came the titles and themes of his songs. He originated the phrase "Tin Pan Alley."



His first song hit, "My Old New Hampshire Home," sold more than two million copies, but all Harry got was fifteen dollars, five on delivery and the balance on approval.



Today he is not only a song writer, but a publisher and a highly regarded member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers.

The Northfield Press

NORTHFIELD, MASS.

WILLIAM P. HORN,
Editor and Publisher
Telephone 166-1
E. V. Lawrence, Treasurer

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in Northfield Every Friday
Advertising Rates Upon Application
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allow two weeks for a change in
address if they do not wish to miss
a copy of the paper. Notify us as
early as possible of any change in
address.

Friday, January 7, 1938

EDITORIAL

In their firebrand oratory, such officials as Ickes and Jackson have tried to wax the wrath of the people against big business in the nation and Washington thus startles us all. It is a most senseless attitude and instills fear into every individual and particularly the small business man. If business large or small, shrinks from that unknown certainty of governmental action, it will fall in its endeavor to move forward or to expend any monies in this direction. Thus the situation will prove serious to the working man and many will be looking for jobs for a long time. Since it is reported that the census of unemployed totals nearly ten million folks, taken some weeks ago, the depression now existing, greatly from fear and from fear alone, will increase that total figure considerably. Our own Senator Walsh in commenting on the situation has wisely said, "I personally feel that it is unwise or timely to defy and suppress the business interests, among whom, there must be a fair percentage of reasonable and honest men." "Unemployment could not be relieved by a standoff fight between the government and industry."

Horse-back riding seems to be coming back into its own throughout New England. In many of our rural communities a demand exists for good saddle horses and the price of a mount is steadily increasing. All this in a land where there is plenty of other sport for both summer and winter seasons. Right here in our own community riding horse-back is being fully appreciated. Two riding stables exist here and have been conducted successfully. Some individuals have purchased for their own use a saddle horse and on pleasant days many may be seen on our roads, even in the early morn. It's a good sign which points the way to health and recreation. Let's have more of it.

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USED CARS

SEE OUR STOCK OF WINTER SERVICED USED CARS —
EVERY CAR HAS GOOD TIRES, BATTERY, RADIATOR,
AND IS GUARANTEED!

SPENCER BROS.

NORTHFIELD, MASS.

TELEPHONE 300

THE NEW HIRED HAND



The Back Yard Gardener

You no doubt have heard the old one which says that the thing causing most automobile accidents is the nut holding the steering wheel. Well, it's pretty much the same when it comes to house plants. The human element is just as important as other things.

But there's one plant family which doesn't seem to be bothered too much by this human element. And so I'm going to suggest it as worth a try for house plants. I have in mind the cactus family.

In the first place, cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti. Because they are succulent, they can stand the hot dry atmosphere of our present day flats and homes.

Second, they grow rather slowly and thus seldom get too big for the room and they will stay in one pot for several years. All these points you see reduce the human element.

And then third, they do have very beautiful blossoms. In fact, many of them are comparable to the famous orchids.

Of course they vary considerably in size, so I'm not going to make any effort to suggest particular varieties, but suggest that you go to a good florist and ask his advice, telling him what you have in the way of facilities.

In potting cacti, be sure that you provide plenty of drainage. Fill the pot about one-fourth full of stones or other coarse material, and put in preferably a few pieces of charcoal. The desert cacti seem to prefer good sandy

loam, while the epiphyllums and similar ones usually like a rather rich loam containing some peat moss.

They also say that it's a good thing to put in some slacked lime — about a teaspoonful to a medium-sized pot for desert cacti.

In watering a good general rule is to treat them as you would most house plants, but err on the side of too little rather than too much, although they require more water during the blooming and growing periods than at other times.

You can usually buy cactus plants for little or nothing and once you get a few plants you can easily increase the number by cuttings. Cuttings are easily started growing by first allowing the cuttings to dry for a couple of days and then planting them in a flat box, or if you wish right into the pot in which you intend to grow them.

The cutting itself should be planted preferably in a mixture of sand and powdered charcoal which is kept just damp. If you plant them in the pot, have just a small amount of the sand and charcoal into which to insert the cutting, and the rest of the pot can be filled with regular soil.

Maiden Aunt (to her nephew, a poor preacher): James, why did you enter the ministry?
James: Because I was called.
Aunt: Are you sure it wasn't some other noise you heard?

Nit: Is it true that statistics prove women live longer than men?
Wit: Well, you know paint is a great preservative.

LATCHIS THEATRE

Friday, January 7
"THE MIGHTY TREES"
Noah Beery, Jr. - Barbara Read
"MICHAEL O'HALLORAN"
Wynne Gibson - Warren Hull
Saturday, January 8
"THANK YOU, MR. MOTO"
Peter Lorre - Jane Regan
AND 5 DE LUXE ACTS
RKO VODVIL

Mon. - Tues. Jan. 10 - 11
"THOROUGHBREDS DON'T CRY"
Judy Garland - Sophie Tucker
Mickey Rooney
Mousetone News

Wed. - Thurs. Jan. 12 - 13
"MURDER ON DIAMOND ROW"
Edmund Lowe - Ann Todd

AUDITORIUM

Fri. - Sat. Jan. 7 - 8
Errol Flynn - Jean Blondell
"THE PERFECT SPECIMEN"
Gene Autry in
"PUBLIC COWBOY No. 1"

Sun. - Mon. - Tues. - Wed.
Jan. 9 - 10 - 11 - 12
Claudette Colbert
Charles Boyer
"TOVARICH"

Basil Rathbone - Anita Louise
News - Travelog - Sportlight
Thur. - Fri. - Sat. Jan. 13-14-15
"NAVY BLUE AND GOLD"

Robert Young - James Stewart
Tom Brown - Florence Rice
News - Novelties

SOUTH VERNON

South Vernon church, Rev. George A. Gray, pastor. Sunday, 10:45, morning worship; 12:15, church school; 7:00, song service followed by sermon. Mid-week meeting, Vernon Home, on Thursday evening, 7 o'clock.

The annual selection of Sunday school officers last Sunday of the South Vernon church resulted as follows: Supt. A. A. Dunklee, asst. superintendent, E. W. Dunklee; clerk and treasurer, Warren E. Dunklee; Supt. Home Dept., Mrs. George A. Gray; chairman, Temperance Committee, Rev. F. H. Leavitt; librarian, Miss Hazel Tenney.

Mrs. Clara Pratt, after spending the week with her daughter, Mrs. Beatrice Scherlin and family, has returned to Mount Hermon.

The South Vernon P.-T. A. held a business meeting at the South school Tuesday evening. It was decided to furnish hot lunches for school children. A social time followed with Mrs. Mildred Dunklee in charge.

The Pond P.-T. A. met Tuesday evening at the Pond schoolhouse. Following a business meeting an entertainment was provided. Readings were given by Miss Addabelle Lane, Helen Scherlin and Mrs. Pauline Streeter. Music was by Mrs. Pauline Streeter at the piano and Martin Johnson violin. The committee in charge were Mrs. Irene Johnson and Mrs. E. W. Scherlin.

Mrs. Nellie Stockwell fell down a flight of stairs at the Vernon Home Monday, and although suffering no broken bones has been confined to bed with bruises.

The annual business meeting of the South Vernon church was held Tuesday afternoon. The complete list of officials is as follows: Chairman, Rev. F. H. Leavitt; clerk, E. W. Dunklee; treasurer, A. A. Dunklee; 1st deacon, Rev. F. H. Leavitt; 2nd, Robert C. Allen; 1st deaconess, Mrs. George A. Gray; 2nd, Mrs. A. H. Evans; music committee, Rev. Mr. Gary, E. W. Dunklee, Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Ralph Gibson; flower committee, Mrs. Gray and ladies of church; soliciting committee, Mrs. Nellie Adams, Mrs. Clara Pratt and Mrs. George A. Day; social committee, Mrs. Ralph Gibson; auditor, Mrs. F. H. Leavitt.

THE LOW DOWN HICKORY GROVE

I been reading where a young fellow who is 17, let his car get away from him, and busted a hydrant and it took a crew of men to shut off the geyser, and it was at 4 a. m.

And with this 17-year-old geyser was a girl, 15.

And some people will condemn the 17 and the 15-year olds but they are barkin' up the wrong tree and the ones mostly to blame, it is the two moms and the two pops of these youngsters who were out at 4 a. m.

And if this foursome does not see that their off-spring is home before sun-up they could use a guardian too.

And if there is nobody to curb a colt, he will sure grow up to be a wild horse, and useless — and nothin' to be proud of. But boys and girls, they will be O. K. and nearer 100% and will think a whole lot more of you, 10 years from now, if you clamp down now and then — and cut out the fancy didos your ownself.

JO SERRA

At The Victoria

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 7 and 8, seven acts of vaudeville will appear on the stage including Harry Grubb movie comedian, while on the screen "Devils Playground" with Richard Dix and Dolores Del Rio will be seen.

On Sunday, Jan. 9, for three days on the screen, "Stella Dallas" with Barbara Stanwyck and John Boles. Co-feature, "Hit the Saddle" with Gene Autry.

Dumb: My ambition is to be a great doctor. I want to become a liver specialist.
Bert: Well, you have a good head for it.

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LEGAL

All persons having articles which they desire inserted in the warrant for consideration at the town meeting on Monday, Feb. 7, should see that they reach the hands of the Selectmen not later than Monday, Jan. 17.

Fred A. Holton, Chairman

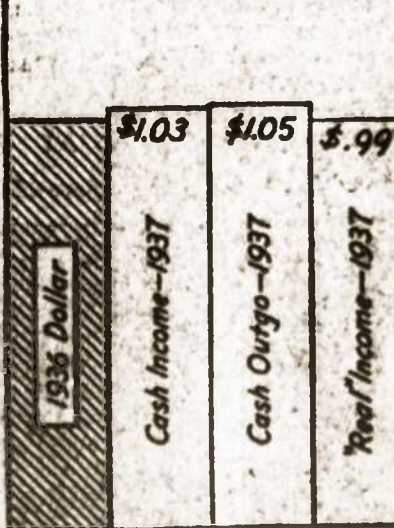
NOTICE

Don't dig your grave with your teeth! That is exactly what you are doing when you eat ancient, cold storage meat. M. F. LOPEZ can supply you with the very best local freshly killed to order poultry obtainable. It costs no more so why rush the undertaker! Fresh eggs always obtainable. Tel. 234, Maple Street.

American Income Rises 3 Cents; Living Costs Gain 5 Cents in Year

PURCHASING POWER
November, 1937, Compared
with November, 1936

INVESTORS SYNDICATE MINNEAPOLIS



THE above chart, illustrating the extent to which the average American has benefitted from the rise in national income during the last twelve months is based upon the monthly consumers' study of Investors Syndicate, of Minneapolis. For every dollar in the pockets of Mr. and Mrs. Public in November, 1936, there was \$1.03 in November, 1937.

At the same time, the index for November, 1937, was \$1.05 compared with \$1 a year earlier, which say Mr. and Mrs. Public one cent behind on every dollar of earnings. This decrease in "real" income represents the average of the total dollar incomes involved in the following losses per dollar: Investors, five cents on every dollar; wage earners, one cent; salaried workers, one cent; and other income received four cents.

Real wages up 2 cents on every dollar last November as compared with the same month of 1936, food rose one cent; miscellaneous items were up three cents and clothing advanced six cents.

Little Willie: You didn't expect to have so many people to dinner, did you?
Host: Did a little bird tell you?
Willie: Yeah, the little piece of chicken on my plate.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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FOR SALE — Bargain price. 3 Console radios, new 1938 models used for demonstration only. Address for interview, Radio, Box 244, East Northfield.

Here and There
WITH THE
HEALTH REPORTER

Colds Opening Wedge

THE common cold is something more than a nuisance; it may be an uncommonly serious matter. In the first place, it may be the forerunner of a much more serious respiratory disease, such as bronchitis or pneumonia. The lighting up of a tuberculous process may follow a cold. It is not to be understood that a cold is the cause of tuberculosis. This disease is caused by the tubercle bacillus; but if the disease is quiescent, a severe cold may cause it to become active. In view of this association, the common cold may actually become a menace to life.

The goal to strive for is the prevention of colds. Admittedly, this is not easy. Be on your guard when you encounter anyone who has a sign of a cold. Watch out for those who sneeze and cough and spit. Keep the children away from anyone who has a cold. Build up your resistance.

Plenty of sleep and rest, sensible clothing, exercise, proper ventilation of home and at work, the right kind of food — especially the protective foods like milk, vegetables and fruits — make good health possible, say the authorities.

We should make it a rule, add stick to it, that we get at least eight hours of sleep out of every twenty-four. Children, of course, require more sleep. Every school child should get from ten to twelve hours of restful sleep a day. Rest is also important. Learn to take a few minutes of relaxation before and after meals — especially the evening meal.

As for exercise — even on the coldest of winter days, doctors advise the getting in of a brisk walk at least. Don't let a day go by without active exercise. It does you more good to take a moderate amount of exercise daily than to take more active exercise irregularly.

In ventilating the home, remember the ideal temperature for a room is from 65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. A northward exposure favors the development of colds, according to the best medical opinion.

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Except Friday Evening
Sundays by Appointment

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Thursday, Sundays and Holidays
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Tues. - Thurs. - Sat. 2-3 p. m.
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